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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/669,969	09/26/2000	William Henry Pettit	H-203484	3594

7590 10/04/2005

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EXAMINER

MARTIN, ANGELA J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1745

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/669,969

Applicant(s)

PETTIT, WILLIAM HENRY

Examiner

Angela J. Martin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-13 and 17-41 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 3-13 and 17-41 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on August 30, 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hsu et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,183,703 B1.

Rejection of claims 1, 2, 14-16 drawn to a fuel cell system.

Hsu et al., teach a fuel cell system comprising a reaction vessel having a catalyst carried in the vessel for endothermic reaction (abstract), and comprising at least a first and second heat exchanger spaced apart from each other within the vessel (col. 2, lines 55-67), and wherein the devices are independently controlled so that heat transferred by the heat exchangers to the catalyst, and the temperature of the catalyst, may be varied at different locations within the reaction vessel corresponding to the location of

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the heat exchanger devices (col. 3, lines 39-52), and wherein the reaction vessel comprises a plurality of parallel substrates, each of the substrates having a first and second surface (col. 4, lines 12-16; Fig. 5), and an endothermic reaction catalyst overlying the first surface (col. 10, lines 64-67 and col. 11, lines 1-7), and an exothermic reaction catalyst overlying the second surface (col. 11, lines 54-59), and wherein each of the substrates is constructed and arranged to transfer heat from the second surface to the first surface (col. 12, lines 28-30). It teaches exothermic reactants comprising a fuel and oxidant, and each of the heat exchangers includes at least one combustion chamber (col. 2, lines 55-64), and at least one fuel and oxidant are selectively charged to each combustion chamber in a controlled amount so that heat generated by each of the heat exchanger devices may be varied as desired (col. 3, lines 15-18). It also teaches a fuel cell system comprising a reaction vessel integrating an exothermic and endothermic reaction (col. 15, lines 20-28), the vessel including a plurality of substrates, each having a first and second surface, and an endothermic reaction catalyst overlying the first surface, and an exothermic reaction catalyst overlying the second surface, and wherein the substrates are constructed and arranged to transfer heat from the second surface to the first surface (col. 4, lines 12-16; col. 12, lines 28-30). It also teaches the first and second surfaces are on opposite sides of the substrate (Fig. 5); wherein the substrate is substantially flat planar (Fig. 5).

Thus, the claims are anticipated.

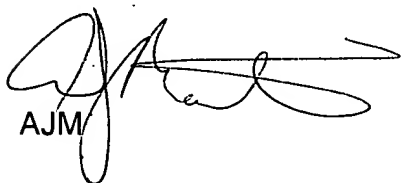
Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, see para. 3 of Remarks/Arguments, filed 8/30/05, with respect to the restriction requirement have been fully considered. Although, the inventions are not independent inventions, they are distinct species.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela J. Martin whose telephone number is 571-272-1288. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


AJM